

Next GARS meeting on **March 9th** @ 7:00pm
Military Communications today!

The GARzette

The official newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

March 2010 <http://www.gars.org/> Volume 19, Issue 3

Note from the President

Greetings from your new club president. The election gave us an almost entirely new slate of officers. My wife, Karen, calls it "GARS The Next Generation". Well, I must admit that it is very exciting to have a mostly new group of officers at the helm. We bring a lot of fresh energy to the club and I hope it will provide a great deal of education, entertainment, fellowship, and growth.

I have been asked about an agenda. I do have an agenda, but it is not a terribly radical one. I plan to talk about it for just a few minutes at the next GARS meeting on March 9th. I hope to see all of you there.

Speaking of the upcoming GARS meeting, I am also looking forward to this month's program about present day military radio communications. In April we have the Georgia QSO party where many GARS members plan to become radio active. And the holy grail of amateur radio, Field Day, will be here before we know it.

As some of you know, the Editor of the Garzette, Jim N2EST has been ill recently. Norm WA4ZXV, who is a Director, past President, and prior Garzette editor himself, has volunteered to take up the reins until Jim's return. Thanks, Norm for pitching in and helping out when the club needs you to. And to Jim, we hope you get well and get back in the saddle very soon!

In recent weeks, we have a tidal wave of new things going on in GARS. We have recently changed the "GARS 6m Net" into the "GARS Round Table Net" which is available on our 6m, 2m, 70cm repeaters on Wednesday nights. Speaking of our nets, amateurs can also participate in both GARS nets using our new Echolink node W4GR-R. In addition to having Echolink on our nets, it is always available for use on our 2m repeater any time you feel like making a high fidelity long distance contact using your regular 2m radio. We also just added a club page to the Internet social networking site Facebook (<http://tinyurl.com/GARS-Facebook>). Speaking of the Internet, I hear from a reliable source that GARS is about to get an all new web site. It will have a fresh, modern look which will be much easier to navigate.

WOW - what a great time to be a member of GARS! I am honored and humbled to be at the helm of such a great organization at such a fantastic time.



A trip to Orlando and Hamcation from Mike Weathers, ND4V

I just returned from what is being billed as the second largest ham fest in the country – Orlando Hamcation. GARS was well represented with Bill – WB4WTN; Amy – KE4IKF; Ed – WA4YIH; John –WB4QDX. I really recommend the ham fest. It is at the fairgrounds and has a big bone yard. Additionally there is a building for swap tables and a one for smaller commercial types (FAR Circuits was there). Of course all of the major ham vendors were represented in the commercial building including our on HRO crowd from Atlanta. The ARRL also had a nice representation on hand and I got to say hello to Mary K1MMH VP of Development and to Greg our SE Division representative.

Friday's weather was miserable with a cold rain. Outside the bone yard was awash in blue tarps. Inside the crowds were steady. Saturday was still wet. Crowds inside the swap building were shoulder to shoulder and two deep at most every table. I spent most of my time in the Vibroplex booth. It was my first time meeting Scott Robbins W4PA the new owner. Scott is young, energetic and full of ideas for Vibroplex. I think we'll see the oldest name in ham radio (and one with a Gwinnett connection) around for a long time. Scott worked in the Atlanta HRO store in the early 90's before he went to Ten Tec. He says that he is strongly considering adding Lawrenceville to his ham fest calendar.

Friday night, The Vibroplex gang attended the Florida Contest Group's pizza dinner at the American Legion. They had a prize give away of some nice toys donated by Yaseau. Scott showed us he was at home with a key by placing #2 in the code copying contest. Was a fun gathering and got to shake hands with HI3TEJ and thank him for my 6 meter QSO.

Saturday night, Mitch W4OA, the former owner of Vibroplex, presented me with a custom made Vibrokeyer. It has a black (standard base) with a jeweled movement on top. I can boast of having the last Vibrokeyer made in Mobile AL. The Vibroplex gang enjoyed a dinner at Charlie's steakhouse – an annual tradition for us.

Sunday the crowd was very light. I made my way through and bought the wire, insulators, and power poles to make a dipole for the GQP just like the one Eddie WD4JEM constructed and that played so well on the Battleship Alabama.

I got to the airport in what I thought would be plenty of time to catch my 2:30 flight – what a zoo. Have you ever seen someone check a 52 inch television? Well that seemed to stump the red coats too. After a \$100 overweight fee, the poor guy got it checked and the line moved again. next column

from previous column

I made it home all ok – in better shape than that TV going to Holland I suspect.

Now tell me again when is Dayton? 73 de ND4V

Greater Atlanta Ham Radio Club Council

A photo from the Greater Atlanta Ham Radio Club Council February meeting at Picadilly. Several club leaders and program chairs gathered to share ideas and activities.

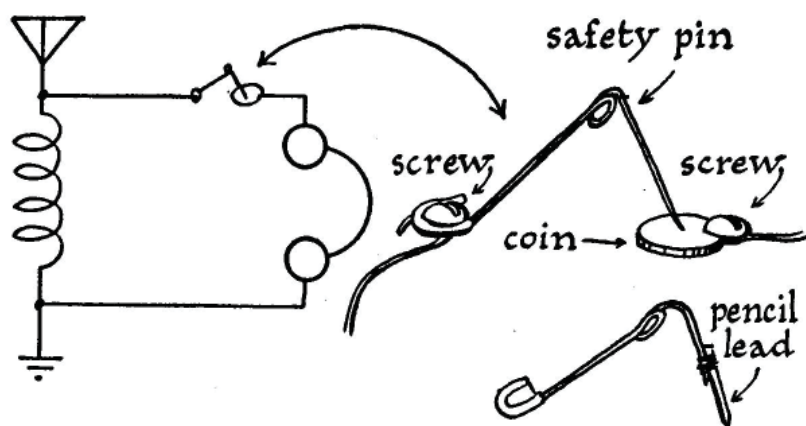
Discussed were support and participation for the local Hamfests and how and where we might put on another Atlanta ham community event. Each club gave a summary of recent and expected activities. It's obvious from these meetings that the Atlanta area is full of Amateur Radio activities. These activities range from kit building



to antenna instruction to license upgrades to contesting to hamfests to Second Sunday Tech Sessions. The program chairs had a chance to discuss recent and anticipated programs. We have a wealth of presenters in our community. Attending for GARS were Norm, WA4ZXV and Sandy, KJ4DRO.

My Start in Amateur Radio by David Harden KJ4CMY Part 1

I have always been fascinated by radio. That you could hear a person talking, who was thousands of miles away, was fascinating to me. When I was in Cub Scouts, one of the projects we had was to build a one-tube radio. My father helped me with it, and as I recall, it didn't work. One thing that did work, was a radio made from an old razor blade, lead from a pencil, and a safety pin. When we added an earphone, antenna, and ground connection, the thing worked! It only received one station, and weakly at that, but it worked. I caught the bug then and there.



I borrowed a book, *Using Electronics* by Harry M. Zarchy from the school library that had some simple one-transistor hookups that worked much better than our razor and safety pin. I still could only pick up one station, but it was much louder. From this book, I found a schematic for a tiny AM radio transmitter, and built it. Now, I could be the one sending radio signal, even if it was only a few feet. My parents bought me a commercially made "toy" transmitter for Christmas, one year. All it had was a microphone connected to it, but I figured out how to connect my record

player to it. I had my own radio station.

My father brought home an old Zenith radio. It was bigger than many modern day televisions. I believe it was from the 1930s. We plugged it in, and found one tube in the back that was arcing. We went down to a local electronics store and bought a replacement tube (5W4), replaced the bad tube, and it worked. It was s sensitive radio. When we connected it to an antenna, I could pick up Boston in the day time from our Poughkeepsie location. I could also pick up a small station in Allentown, Pennsylvania. I investigated the AM radio band nearly every night, listening to stations up to a thousand miles away.

This radio also had short wave, as well. I didn't understand much about short wave at the time, but it was intriguing, listening to Radio Moscow, the BBC, and other stations. I often had one of the Canadian stations that relay on short wave, as well. After returning from my mission in England, I wanted to find out what was going on back in the UK, so I turned to a multi-band portable radio my parents had given me. I did find the BBC, and other stations. Gradually, I learned that there are special parts of the short wave band where broadcasting takes place. I also learned that if you tune to a particular frequency at a particular time every day, you would usually find the same station. Aha! They operate on specific schedules. I gradually became drawn more and more into the world of short wave. Not only could you hear about events the American media never covers, but you have a window on the world few others know about. You get to learn about different cultures, and histories, and about the everyday lives of people around the world. It was fascinating stuff!

Hold on to your hat, continued next month

Congratulations to GARS newly elected officers.

President: Kyle Albritton, W4KDA	Secretary: Hal Collier, W4IGE
Vice President: Earl Whatley, AF4FG	Program Chair. Sandy Hackson, KJ4DRO
Treasurer: Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC	

Gwinnett ARES Happenings from John Davis, WB4QDX

The Emergency Operations Center Response Team for Gwinnett ARES, headed by David Adcock (KA4KKF), is busy installing antennas and equipment to make the Amateur Radio station operational. The EOC will have dual-band (VHF/UHF) capabilities on FM and D-STAR. The station will also be equipped with VHF Packet and HF stations along with 128 Kb D-STAR data on the 23 cm (1.2 GHz) band.

When the station is fully operational, it will be used for ARES Nets, exercises and of course, emergency communications when needed. The equipment was purchased by Gwinnett County as a part of the EOC budget. The EOC was officially opened on February 16th with a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony. Gwinnett County is one of very few Emergency Operations Centers in Georgia with a fully equipped Amateur Radio station. Gwinnett ARES has become an integral part of the county's Emergency Operations Plan.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. If you're interested in finding out more about ARES or to join, visit the website at www.GwinnettARES.org or contact John Davis, Emergency Coordinator, at wb4qdx@arrl.net.

**Gwinnett ARES Weekly Training Net each Monday evening at 9:00pm
GARS Repeater 147.075+ (82.5 PL).**

Regular meetings on the fourth Tuesday each month

ARRL International DX Contest from Norm, WA4ZXV

The ARRL International DX Contest (CW) contest was the weekend of Feb 20-21. It's one of many opportunities to work DX (other countries). I don't do well in the numbers, but I did enjoy working 65 countries. It takes a little work, but the radio and computer do most of that. Many of the contesters are sending CW at over 30 wpm, and I need all the help I can get to copy. But getting the rig, antenna, computer and software ready are as much of a challenge as working the stations. I settled on Ham Radio Deluxe and DM780 for this contest. The combination gave me a good dx-cluster view, decoding that rough CW, sending CW, and logging. The piece missing is good output for reporting. But I can make that happen after the contest.

In preparation for the contest, Mike, ND4V, came over and helped me and my neighbor get my parallel dipole moved from 20 ft to about 70 ft in the air. The wind wasn't cooperating and it took several shots with the tennis ball launcher to get the first line in the proper spot. The second seemed to be a greater challenge because it had to go over the loop and the 80 meter doublet. After the lines were in place, I handed a roll of RG8 to my neighbor (the one that helps me do most tough work) and he climbed up on the roof to attach it to the antenna. He mentioned it didn't seem to have all the parts, but from the ground we could see a PL259. We told him to go ahead and put it together. We pulled it up. It's high! I went to solder a connector on the other end of the cable, and Ernie said that's not what the other end looks like. We took it down and sure enough, the PL259 wasn't soldered and the tip had come off. Fixed it and back up it went. The antenna performed well for the contest. But it's always hard to compare antennas. Conditions change so rapidly.

ARRL International DX Contest (Phone) is March 6 and 7. So get your rig, antenna, computer and software ready.

And don't forget to schedule the **Georgia QSO party** in April. <http://gqp.contesting.com> We plan to have some fun as a club working some counties to help keep GA on the map.

Watch for information on
GARS club
participation in GQP



GEORGIA QSO PARTY 2010

APRIL 10 AND 11

Annually, the second **full** weekend of April

There are two operating periods:

1800Z Saturday until 0359Z Sunday

1400Z to 2359Z on Sunday

JOIN US!!

**Mobiles operate as Rovers to get ALL GA counties On the Air
WE NEED YOU**

OBJECTIVE: For amateurs outside of the state of Georgia to make contact with as many Phone and/or CW Georgia stations in as many of the 159 Georgia counties, as possible.

Georgia stations work everyone on Phone, CW, or both modes.

The GQP is on 160m, 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, 10m, and 6m only.

Suggested operating frequencies are:

Phone: 1.865, 3.810, 7.225, 14.250, 21.300, 28.450, 50.135

CW: 1.815, 3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045, 50.095

Awards for Club competition, Out of state clubs, and Georgia clubs, are offered in each mode category along with the individual station awards.

GQP is becoming one of the most popular QSO party events.

QSO parties in general are now very popular. GQP has gained some status as one of the “best”. Our goal is to ***get all the 159 (!) GA counties on the air for the event.*** So far we have not quite done it. We had 157 counties live in 2009. It can be done if the GA clubs rally to get stations on the air. Home stations can easily put in some hours on the weekend. It is the Rovers who go to the rare counties and make it fun. Get in the mobile and visit your neighboring counties on short Rover run. GA is beautiful in April.

Use your favorite logger if you have one, send a Cabrillo file to gqp@iham.us

ALL forms of logs are accepted, Text files, word doc files, spreadsheets, paper logs too!

(The Mailing address for paper or?? is on the web site)

Full Rules, Prizes, Awards, current and prior results are on <http://gqp.contesting.com/>

Be sure to visit the site, and check.

GQP is sponsored by South East Contest Club, and Southeastern DX Club.

Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule.

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at www.arrl-ga.org.

First Saturday, Even Months

9 a.m.
EOC Building
Butch Nitz, AF4FS
(770) 968-8780

First Wednesday 7 p.m.
ARRL/VEC
Roberts School
4681 School Street, Acworth
Jodi Escher AG4BK
(770) 387-1591

Second Saturday, Odd Months
ARRL VEC 8:30 a.m.
Stone Mountain Methodist Church
5312 West Mountain St.
Stone Mountain
Bob Varone, W4ETN
(770) 978-3179

Third Saturday
CA VEC 9 a.m.
Marietta First United Meth. Church
Room 305,
56 Whitlock Ave.
Marietta
David Still, WB4RRD
(707)973-2566

Fourth Tuesday
ARRL VEC 7 p.m.
United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Rd.
Douglasville

Third Sunday
W5YI VEC 3-5 p.m.
Lawrenceville Masonic Lodge
465 S. Perry St.
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
(770-963-5721
.

Fourth Sunday
2:30 p.m.
Georgia Tech
VanLeer Elec. Building
Rm. W218
77 Atlantic Dr.
www.w4aql.com
Alexander G. Carver
(404)894-2936
acarver@ece.gatech.edu

VE Report

We had 7 VE's present:
Frank Sauciunas KF4TQV
David Bruse W4DTR
John Kludt K7SYS
Bill Cherepy WB4WTN
Brian Page N4TRB
Mark Fehlig WA6NGC
Louis Shulman KJ4DRW

These tests are given at 3:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of every month except December. If you want to take a test, you should bring a photo ID (e.g. driver's license, student ID, etc.), your original license (if you have one) and a copy of the license, as well as original CSCE and copy for prior elements passed. Minors must have two forms of ID and a Social Security number. Be sure to bring a pen and pencil with eraser, a calculator with its memory cleared, and an exam fee of \$14 cash (checks are not accepted). Walk-ins are welcome. No pre-registration is required. 73,
Frank Sauciunas, KF4TQV
Webmaster: Lawrenceville
Masonic Lodge No. 131
Lodge web page: <http://1vlodge131.org>
Email: kf4tqv@charter.net
<http://webpages.charter.net/kf4tqv>

Metro Club Meetings

First Tuesday
Kennehoochee ARC
Southern Polytechnic
State University
Meeting begins at 7:30 PM
Talk In 146.880(-)

Second Monday
Georgia Tech ARC
Room W218
Van Leer Electrical
Engineering Bldg.
Georgia Tech Campus
Meeting at 7:00 PM

First Thursday
Atlanta Radio Club
Georgia Red Cross HQ
1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta
Meeting is at 7:30 PM
Talk In -146.820(-)
N.E. Georgia ARC
Commerce Public Library
Meeting is at 6:30 PM
Talk In - 147.225(+)
PL 123.0

Second Thursday
Alford Memorial Radio Club
Annistown Road Baptist
Church
Intersection of Annistown
Rd & Spain Rd
Stone Mountain
Dinner at 6:00 PM
Meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 146.760(-)

Third Tuesday
North Fulton Amateur
Radio League
Masonic Lodge
194 Milton Avenue
Alpharetta, Georgia
meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 145.47(-)

Second Saturday
North GA QRP Club
Shepherd Center 10:00

GARS

APPAREL ORDER FORM

NAME: _____ PHONE # _____

CALL: _____

NAME TO BE EMBROIDERED: _____

CALL SIGN TO BE EMBROIDERED: _____

ITEM	SIZE	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
T-SHIRT				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$20.00	
White WITH name & call			\$20.00	
GOLF SHIRT -- WITHOUT name & call				
Red			\$24.00	
White			\$24.00	
GOLF SHIRT -- WITH name & call				
Red			\$28.00	
White			\$28.00	
SWEATSHIRT				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$30.00	
White WITH name & call			\$30.00	
LIGHTWEIGHT JACKET -- RED ONLY				
WITHOUT name & call			\$31.00	
WITH name & call			\$35.00	
HEAVYWEIGHT JACKET -- RED ONLY				
WITHOUT name & call			\$41.00	
WITH name & call			\$45.00	
GARS BADGE -- WITH name & call			\$9.00	
HAT -- WITHOUT name & call				
Red			\$9.00	
White			\$9.00	
HAT -- WITH name & call				
Red			\$14.00	
White			\$14.00	

TOTAL ORDER PRICE: _____

Please attach your check made payable to GARS and return to Dick Sandberg, N9SXJ or mail to:

GARS
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, Georgia 30048

NOTE: Please allow at least 4 weeks for delivery of items. Some items may need to be special ordered.

Thanks and 73s! -- Dick N9SXJ

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

Amateur Call Sign _____ License _____ Class _____ Novice Technician General
Advanced Extra

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Email address _____

Home Telephone _____

Work Telephone _____

Cell Telephone _____

Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yy)

ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

I prefer to receive the GARZETTE newsletter by: US Mail Email (please check only one)

Type of Membership

Individual \$30.00 annually
Student \$15.00 annually
Senior \$15.00 annually (over age 65)
Family ** \$35.00 annually

** Available for family members residing at the same address

Optional Contributions

Repeater Fund \$ _____

Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Additional Family Members **

Name _____ Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yy)

License Class Technician General Extra ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yy)

License Class Technician General Extra ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

I agree to abide by the By-Laws of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society and understand that membership is subject to the approval of the Club.

Applicant Signature _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

GWINNETT COLLISION CENTER, INC.

305 Sharon Ind. Way
Suwanee, Georgia 30024
(770) 945-0161
Import and Domestic
Unibody and Frame Repair

Marty Fowler, KE4MLH

Mark Justice

WORLD WIDE DISTRIBUTION



Mark Holmes
Manager
KJ4VO

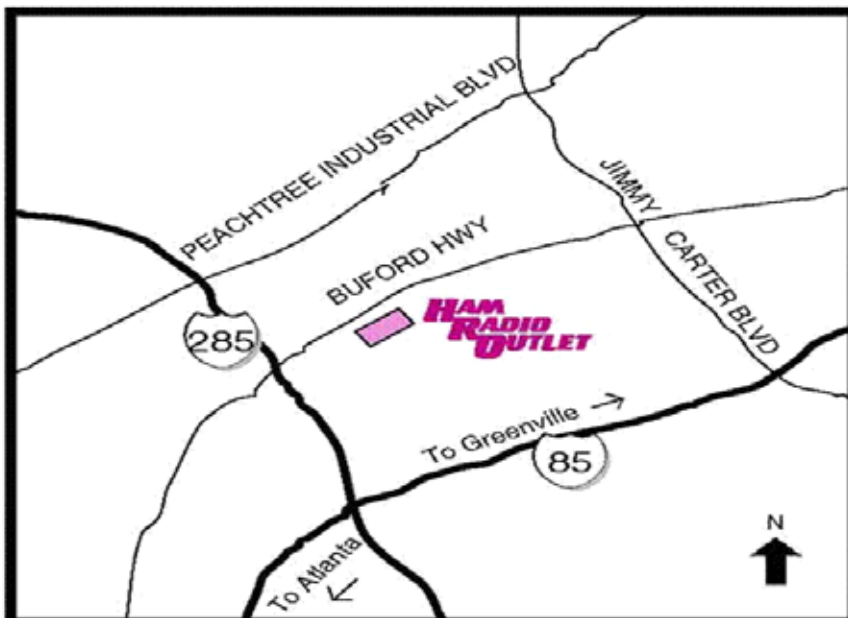
6071 Buford Highway
Atlanta, GA 30340 (Doraville)
770-263-0700 1-800-444-7927
Fax: 770-263-9548
e-mail: atlanta@hamradio.com
hours: 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat.

John, KI4LMA
Dale, W4GCL

Bill, W5RQR
Jim, N1ABM

David, AI4XL
Josh, W4JDH

Tom, KB4HQA
Brian, WD4DX



Alinco
Icom
Japan Radio Corp.
Premier
ADI
Yaesu
Alpha Delta
Arrow
Butternut
Create
Kenwood
Tarheel
Heil
West Mountain

Cushcraft
Diamond
Force 12
Hustler
Hy-Gain (Telex)
KLM
Larsen
M2
Valor
Van Gorden
MFJ
Ameritron
Comet

Gwinnett Amateur Radio
Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048



GARS Recurring Calendar

- *Monthly club meeting* is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 PM.

Check the [website](#) for location.

- Every Monday at 8 PM local time: *GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net* on the GARS 2 meter repeater.

- Every Wednesday at 9 PM local time: *GARS 6 meter net* on the GARS 6 meter repeater.

- Every Saturday at 7:30 AM local time: *GARS Weekly Family Breakfast*, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive,

PRUDENTIAL GEORGIA REALTY

SHARON ADCOCK

404-428-9127

sharonadcock@mindspring.com

You need an expert on your team
when buying or selling real estate.
10+ years experience of listening
and filling YOUR needs.



www.sharonadcock.prudentialgeorgia.com

**GARS Special-
ist
Top Negotiator**



Helping hams with the sale and purchase of their properties takes extra time, effort and dedication. Not every agent is willing to make that commitment. Call me for when you or your friends and family are ready to make a move.

* * References available upon request.